(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has decided to modernize 25 tentatively selected non-metro airports to world class standards in phases with focus on airside and city side development and enhancement of non-aeronautical revenue. Indian Financial Consultant (IFC) and Global Technical Advisor (GTA) have been appointed to conduct techno-economic feasibility study of 10 identified airports to evolve an appropriate model based on viability of the project. The action for appointment of these consultants for remaining 15 airport in Phase II is in hand. Further action will be taken after receipt of the studies.

Modifications in air agreement with US

16. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government and United States have signed an open sky agreement similar to those the US signed with other countries;

(b) whether Government have sought certain modifications to ensure that the benefits should not go to the US Airlines alone;

(c) whether the US has agreed that the benefit will be given to the Indian Airlines also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFULPATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several modifications were carried out in the standard draft keeping in view the overall interest of our civil aviation sector.

(c) and (d) The benefits arising out of this Agreement will accrue equally to the airlines of both countries. Designated Airlines of both countries would have unlimited access to all points of call in each others territory and would also have unlimited intermediate and beyond 5th freedom rights. It is expected that airlines of both countries would benefit as the traffic size on Indo-US route is very high.